

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 /055 W

----- 078260

R 181009Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9167

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH, BM

SUBJECT: GUB CLAIMS BCP INSURGENTS ROUTED

1. IN ITS FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE JANUARY OFFENSIVE OF THE BCP INSURGENTS IN NORTHERN AND EASTERN SHAN STATE, THE GUB FEBRUARY 14 ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE AND MAPS OUTLINING THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN. THE GUB NOTES THAT "FIERCE BATTLES" AND "FURIOUS FIGHTING", INCLUDING BAYONET COMBAT, TOOK PLACE IN LATE JANUARY AT MUSE AND MONG YU WEST OF THE SALWEEN RIVER NEAR THE CHINESE BORDER AND IN THE MONGHNYIN, MONG KAI AND PALENG AREAS NORTH AND EAST OF KENG-TUNG. GUB CLAIMED THAT THE BCP FORCES WERE DRIVEN BACK AND ARE NOW BEING PURSUED BY THE BURMA ARMY. IT ADMITTED 96 KILLS, 132 WOUNDED AND 66 MISSING FROM GOVERNMENT FORCES BUT CLAIMED BETWEEN 85 (BY BODY COUNT) AND 460 (ACCORDING TO VILLAGERS) OF THE ENEMY KILLED. (GUB COMMUNIQUE OF THIS SORT USUALLY ARE REASONABLY ACCURATE AS TO FACTS). OPERATIONAL DETAILS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY BY DAO.

2. COMMENT: THE MID-FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE JANUARY OFFENSIVE WAS APPARENTLY HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL GOVERNMENT FORCES HAD REASSERTED THEIR CONTROL IN THE AREA AND BLUNTED THE ATTACKS.

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IT MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED TOO BY THE WIDESPREAD RUMORS IN RANGOON

ABOUT BCP VICTORIES IN THE AREA ABOUT WHICH THE BCP'S CLANDESTINE RADIO, THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF BURMA, HAS RECENTLY BEEN BOASTING. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT VICTORIES OVER THE INSURGENTS FIT NICELY WITH UNION DAY CELEBRATIONS WHICH HAVE CARRIED THE THEMES OF NATIONAL UNITY AGAINST "EXTERNAL DESTRUCTIONISTS."

3. GUB ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT REFER TO PRC SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS, ALTHOUGH ACCOMPANYING MAP OF BATTLE AREA CLEARLY IDENTIFIED ITS PROXIMITY TO THE CHINESE BORDER. EDITORIAL COMMENT SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT, AS WELL AS EARLIER UNION DAY SPEECH BY GEN. SAN YU, HAS FOCUSED ON OUTSIDE SUPPORT (WITHOUT NAMING COUNTRIES INVOLVED) TO ALL "LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST DESTRUCTIONISTS," THUS CONTINUING TO EQUATE PRC SUPPORT TO BCP WITH THAI INVOLVEMENT WITH PPP AND ETHNIC INSURGENTS. GUB MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT PRC SUPPORT OF BCP, THOUGH ITS EARLIER ATTEMPTS TO DO SO HAVE FALLEN FLAT IN TERMS OF MOBILIZING WORLD OPINION. ON THIS OCCASION, JOURNALISTS WERE TOLD A TRIP TO THE BATTLEGROUND MAY BE ARRANGED FOR THEM LATER; THIS WOULD AFFORD ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLICIZING CHINESE ROLE IN INSURGENCY. POSSIBLY RELATED IS THE MILITARY ATTACHE TRIP SPONSORED BY BURMESE MILITARY TO LASHIO AND NORTHEAST SHAN STATE IN LATE MARCH THOUGH TRIP HAS BEEN PROMISED SINCE EARLY JANUARY.

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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